

[Shri Swaran Singh]

of his criticism of internal policy is going to help... (Interruptions).

MR. SPEAKER: If you go on like that, I will ask the Minister not to reply.

SHRI SWARAN SINGH: I would like to say that the better approach, if I may suggest, for Mr. Jyotirmoy Bosu's party would be to join us in raising our strong voice against the establishment of base in Diego Garcia, against the accelerated military presence of the United States and of other naval powers. He is certainly not helping the cause by saying or hinting even obliquely that the Government of India's attitude in this respect is not firm, is not clear. If I may say in all humility, he is playing into the hands of those elements in the United States who are trying to show that the opposition in India is not strong, is not real. It is not the correct position. There are signs of opposition even in the United States; the members of the United States Senate are also voicing their Protest against the expenditure of over 30 million U.S. dollars on the Diego Garcia base; it is suggested by those critics of this policy in the United States that this increased tension might come in the way of establishment of detente and may also open up the United States Government to a justifiable criticism that the United States are adopting the role of world police-men. So, I would like to suggest to my friend opposite that, in this respect, he should join us in voicing our opposition to the establishment of the base and also our strong opposition to the induction of big naval units of the U.S. Navy, because this is an action which is opposed not only by India but by all the littoral countries surrounding the Indian Ocean, by all the African countries and by all the Asian countries—may be, there are one or two exceptions. Even countries like Australia and New Zealand are in favour of keeping the Indian Ocean as an area of peace.

SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPA (Telli-cherry): Mr. Speaker, Sir, by sending this aircraft carrier, 'Kitty Hawk', to the Indian

Ocean at a time when the entire peace-loving countries, all the littoral countries and all those who want peace in the world, are opposed to this kind of U.S. efforts of escalation of war or tension in this area, is yet another example of the total disregard of the U.S. imperialist administration to world public opinion. Mr. Jyotirmoy Bosu has explained what this Kitty Hawk is, how dangerous it is and all that.

I would like to draw attention to another fact that this is not the only one ship which is being sent here. I was just going through a report where it is said that there are already two task-forces with two aircraft carriers—with 140 to 160 aircraft over them—and five destroyers and some oil carriers already in the Indian Ocean; there are two destroyers and an amphibian ship in bahrein, in the Persian Gulf; there is another set of two destroyers and a command ship in the island of Diego Garcia. And to this big naval build-up is being added this Kitty Hawk, another aircraft carrier with highly sophisticated electronic devices, missile launchers, 80 to 90 aircraft and nearly 5,000 armed men.

This should be viewed in the context of global strategy which is now being worked out by the United States in collusion with Peking and South Africa. It is one of the dirty political games that we are witnessing in this period. The gentleman whom Shri Jyotirmoy Bosu just now quoted, Mr. Seymour Weiss, Director of the US State Department's Bureau of Politico-Military Affairs, in his testimony, has stated that Pakistan, Iran, Singapore and even the People's Republic of China had publicly 'applauded' the US decision to build a base in Diego Garcia. This is the position.

When this happens, when such a serious thing happens, we agree that the Government of India have protested against it and they have taken a position which can be appreciated. But I do not understand another thing which is happening in the name of the Government of India.

We have an Ambassador in the United States, Mr Kaul who is eulogizing all the time how friendly is the United States and how helpful they are in various spheres Whereas the United States has got an ambassador, a hawk, in India, Mr Moynihan, who is going round the country and propagating the dirty politics of the US imperialist aggressors in this country and selling their aggressive policies everywhere But our Ambassador is singing and chanting the glory of the United States I do not understand why this is happening I would like to know from the hon Minister whether the Government will do something about these Ambassadors who are going to the United States who sometimes become more loyal than the king

Then, there is another propaganda which is going on This propaganda is being conducted by the Western Press, the United States and the imperialist forces and they are planting this propaganda as far as possible in the Indian press also I would like the Minister to deny this propaganda here on the floor of this House They say that USA is sending all these naval aircraft carriers and other things and building up a naval strength in the Indian Ocean because they think that the Soviet Union is doing that In the Indian Press in the recent period there were news about it One news said that India had offered port facilities to the Soviet Union in Visakhapatnam and other places I know the Government had denied it Then there was another news that when Soviet Union had mounted its build-up of naval forces in the Indian Ocean, the Government of India kept quiet and the same Government of India is very angry over the United States These are propaganda by the western press This is also denied by the Government.

Lastly, they said that there is an attempt by Soviet Union to use the Indian Ocean for nuclear tests which was also denied by the Government of India. But I would like to know whether this propaganda has not got a motive to suggest that the

Americans are coming to the Indian Ocean with the innocent purpose of balancing the military forces in this region because they fear that the Soviet Union is present here in a big way Even the NATO powers say that Soviet presence in the Indian Ocean is not a very big thing They say that after the 1971 Bangla Desh war the Soviets have not increased their naval forces in the Indian Ocean and they also say that they do not have any big naval battle ships in this region

Now, I would like the Minister to tell the House what exactly the Government will do apart from protesting over it It is of course part of the methods that we protest, the entire country, the peace-loving forces, unitedly protest against this aggressive act of the United States But apart from that, what I want to know is, whether the Government would take a position to denounce this thing, whether you would make it clear that you don't expect US to do justice to the peace loving people, which they have not done in any part of the world in their history We should understand that this is really the character of imperialism It is inherent and so long as imperialism is there they will try to commit aggression they tried to impose war on the peace loving people we have seen it in Vietnam, we have seen it at the time of the Bangladesh liberation and we have seen this everywhere Many interesting things are happening around our country All these years we thought that we have the sea front of our country quite safe Now we are getting alarmed at the news which comes relating to the Bay of Bengal where trawlers are sent in the name of fishing set up with electronic gadgets and devices to spy over the Soviet ships who are clearing the harbour of mines and certain destructions caused by Pakistan during the days of the Bangladesh liberation war The net result is, the Indian Ocean as I have told you has been made a spring-board of war, today by the imperialist powers What is our relation going to be with the Commonwealth The United States in 1966 when Labour party

[Shri C. K. Chandrapan]

was in power, first approached Britain about the Diego Garcia base. Now that the Labour Prime Minister Mr. Wilson has again come to power the United States spokesman has said that they have no expectation that Labour will make any change in their attitude. I want to know whether our Government has taken up this question of Diego Garcia with the new Government of Britain, requesting them to change or to reverse this policy of imposing war and tension on this region. If they say they will not, then the Government should be bold enough to tell this House that we will say: To Hell with your Commonwealth. What is the meaning of remaining in such a Commonwealth?

Lastly my three points are the following. What is the understanding of the Government in relation to the collusion of US and China regarding military naval build-up in the Indian Ocean? What is the attitude of the Government towards the Commonwealth? What is the Government going to do? Will they take it up with Wilson Government immediately? Lastly, will the Government come out now denouncing the United States for this kind of aggressive action, because this should be considered as a matter of aggression?

SHRI SWARAN SINGH: The broad approach of the hon. Member, if some of his strong expressions could be eliminated, —tallies broadly with the Government of India's approach. He has voiced quite understandably strong reactions against the establishment of the Diego Garcia base and also of the continued USA's naval presence in the Indian ocean. We broadly agree with that. He was, I think, unnecessarily hard on our Ambassador; ambassadors in any country are expected to strengthen relations between the country to which they are accredited and the country which they represent. That is the normal function of all ambassadors in whatever part of the world they may be functioning. And if Mr. Kaul, in accordance with the Government of India's policy tried to project India's attitude on several matters, which might bring about some greater

understanding between India and the USA, we should not decry that.

We should not decry at all an Ambassador acting under instructions from his Government. Mr. Moynihan's name was mentioned again. I did make a statement with regard to the statements which were attributed in press to Mr. Moynihan, I think, in Madras

I would like to say this much that the statements attributed to him may be the presentation of the U.S. Government's viewpoint. But, we totally reject the validity of the arguments contained in these statements. Our opposition to the establishment of the Diego Garcia base is strong and we continue to adhere to that policy

I now come to the four specific points about which the hon Member had asked me to give Government of India's reaction. Apart from our continuing to express our opposition to the establishment of the base and the induction of the U.S. Naval Forces into the Indian Ocean, we also intend to activate the *Ad Hoc* Committee and the working Group in the U.N. which is already functioning. In order to ensure that the Indian Ocean remains an area of peace, as per the General Assembly Resolution, the working Group becomes more active and mobilises international opinion and opposes the establishment of this base and the continued presence of the US Naval Force in the Indian Ocean, we also propose...

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: By that time, everything will be completed in Diego Garcia.

SHRI SWARAN SINGH: The work on the base is already more or less complete. They are now only enlarging it. Diego Garcia is not the solitary black spot. There are others also and our opposition is directed against all bases, old or new because we are totally opposed to the establishment of bases in the Indian Ocean. We will also continue to mobilise opinion